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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SUBJECT: "Questions and Answers on Home Freezers"- Information from household equipment specialists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture

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Today's questions come from families who plan to buy home freezing and storage equipment. For our answers we turn to home equipment specialists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A homemaker writes: "What size freezer will serve the needs of our family best? There are four of us. We live on a farm and grow most of our food at home."

Well...that means many kinds of fruits and vegetables. And very likely this homemaker will keep poultry, pork, beef...and perhaps lamb in the freezer.

Farm families generally need more storage space in their home freezers than city people use. When a relatively small part of the family's food comes from the freezer ..about three cubic feet of space per person is a good average.

But for the farm family...the equipment specialists suggest a minimum of five cubic feet of frozen food storage space for each member of the family.

So a freezer with at least 20 cubic feet of storage space will be needed to serve this farm family of four.

Another homemaker wants to know about how much a home freezer costs.

You can estimate the costs--say the home equipment specialists--on the basis of OPA ceiling prices to consumers. Right now...the average cost for a 15- to 18- cubic foot freezer is about $30 per cubic foot. Large freezers are less expensive per cubic foot. Smaller ones cost more.

Some farm families plan to save by building their own freezing and storage units. They'll buy the refrigerating system and materials. Then they'll do most of the carpentry work themselves. One farmer has figured that his homemade walk-in freezer will cost only half as much as the price of a completed unit.

One more question. A homemaker asks, "Which is better...a home freezer with a side opening...or one that opens at the top."

The household equipment specialists say it will probably make little differences in the long run. So far...freezers with top openings cost a little less. They've proved slightly more economical in operation. But most users consider the side opening more convenient. Both types are being improved all the time.

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